Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. This data is available only on the basis of persons and not households. Thus these figures are available for 1977-78, 1983-84, 1987-88 and 1993-94. As per the estimates for 1993-94, the number of persons living below poverty line is 168.57 million.

(d) The poverty line for 1993-94 estimates is given by an expenditure of Rs. 228.9 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 264.1 per capita per month for urban areas, at 1993-94 prices.

News-item regarding black marketing of Kerosene

1127. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in 'Satesman' dated 2nd January, 1996 regarding involvement of IOC senior managers is selling subsidised kerosene meant for PDS in black market and its diversion to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SUPPLIES) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government makes only bulk allocation of kerosene to States/UTs for distribution through their Public Distribution System (PDS). Operational responsibility of ensuring proper distribution within the State/UT to the consumers is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The States/UTs are authorised to take action against blackmarketeers, hoarders, etc. under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and various Control Orders issued thereunder, as also the Indian Penal Code. The Central Government has been advising, from time to time, the States/UTs to take effective steps so that malpractices do not occur. A scheme of blue dyeing of kerosene and 'delivered supply', i.e. delivery of supplies at the door step of wholesalers has also been introduced in order to check unauthorised diversion and othe malpractices in the distribution c kerosene.

Monitoring of NGOs Fund

1128. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names and amount released to NGOs by the Planning Commission during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Commission has monitored the use of the funds released to NGOs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Planning Commission is no implementating any specific scheme to fund NGOs for any development work.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-Operational Sugar Mills in Punjab

1129. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab Government have expressed inability to run the existing sugar mills in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government had requisitioned for the same sugar mills some years back;

(c) if so, the reasons for present imbroglio; and